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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner has objected to the claim numbering. The claims have been renumbered according to the examiners request.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-9 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,729,518 to Badillo.

The Examiner has rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as applied to claims 1-9, and 16 above.

The Examiner has rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Badillo as applied to claim 1-9 above and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 3637120 to Clay.

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The Examiner has rejected claims 12-15 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Badillo and in further view of Schaiweitz.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 17-19, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Badillo as applied to claims 1-9 and 16 above and in further view of Beletsky.

Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 2-5, 16, and 19 have been amended to change their dependency. Claims 20 and 21 have been amended to overcome the above cited rejections.

In particular, the preamble of claims 20 and 21 have been amended. In addition, both claims 20 and 21 recite either a hole or an opening in a cover to allow a flexible elongated member of the medical device to pass therethrough.

This feature is not shown in the above cited art.

In addition claim 21 also includes the following element:

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a longitudinally extending fastener coupled to said flap and disposed adjacent to said pouch said longitudinally extending fastener being positioned adjacent to said opening and for securing the elongated flexible element to the flap;

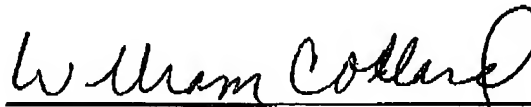
This feature is also not shown by the prior art.

In summary, claim(s) 2-5 ,16, 19, 20 and 21 have been amended. In addition claim 1 has been canceled. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the remaining claims be allowed and that this case be passed to issue.

Applicant respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s):

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by facsimile transmission to the U.S.P.T.O. to Patent Examiner Hoesly at Group No.3727, to 1-703-872-9306 on May 14, 2005.

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